GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1332
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Paid News
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a system of paid news circulation of economical and political nature is in operation for quite sometime with electronic and print media actively involving in circulation of paid news on monitory consideration and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Election Commission and the Press Council of India are in the process of conducting an independent and detached study on the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any report on the findings of the study has been submitted to the Government and if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a): Paid News has been an item of discussion in Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology and also in Press Council of India. Press Council of India is a statutory body which deals with instances of paid news reported to it. The Election Commission of India examines all the suspected cases of Paid News in connection with elections through its Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) constituted at district level and state level throughout the country.

(b) No such independent and detached study on the issue is being conducted either by Press Council of India or Election Commission of India on the issue.

(c) & (d) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

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